Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex (shrubland phase, ABS)

The Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex map class (ABS) is the shrubland phase of three compositionally similar map classes that are mapped separately because of their physiognomic characteristics. ABS is dominated by stunted gray birch and red spruce, each reaching canopy cover > 25%.

ABS has a light yellow to pink deciduous tree signature mixed with a somewhat smooth texture. The dark red conifer signature of red spruce is mixed throughout the deciduous signature. The proportion of red spruce to the deciduous tree species is highly variable. The canopy is open, and rock outcrops are visible.

ABS was mapped mostly found within the 1947 fire area. It occurs at low elevations and at all aspects.

The ABS map class represents one NVCS association: Early Successional Woodland/Forest. This association has 3 physiognomic subtypes that blend into each other with all intermediate variations present. At the time of mapping, ABS was considered a distinct vegetation type from ABF and ABW. Nevertheless, it was a difficult type to map because the phases blend into one another. In addition, ABS grades into the Mixed Conifer - Deciduous Woodland as tree height increases, and to ROW when oak dominates.

Polygons: 8, Hectares: 105, Average size (h): 13

Accuracy Assessment Results
The ABS map class was assessed with the two other map class phases within the complex (ABF and ABW) because the three map classes share the same vegetation community.

Producers' accuracy: 68% (Confidence interval 58% - 78%)
Users' accuracy: 86% (Confidence interval 78% - 94%)

See Aspen - Birch Woodland/Forest Complex (forest phase) map class (ABF) for details.